Famine or scarcity conditions in Gujarat

410. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this year Gujarat State is facing severe famine or scarcity conditions;

(b) what are the details regarding the conditions of scarcity in Gujarat available with the Central Government; and

(c) whether any assistance in the form of grants or loan advances or in kind is being considered, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat have submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance for tackling drought. According to the memorandum, part of the State is experiencing drought conditions as per details given below:—

(i)	No. of districts affected	16
(ii)	No. of villages affected	11516
(iii)	Population affected	153.49 lakhs
(iv)	Cattle population affected	90.97 lakhs
(v)	Cropped area affected	75.66 lakhs

(c) A Central Team visited the State in the month of January, 1987 to assess the drought situation and need for Central assistance. Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, a total amount of Rs. 66.51 crores has been approved as ceilings of expenditure for tackling drought in the period upto June, 1987.

Clearance to Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat

411. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the progress made on the clearance of Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have furnished the details and/or replied to all the queries raised by the Ministry in this connection;

(c) if not which specific compliance is still pending; and

(d) by when final clearance to this project is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat was found acceptable by the Planning Commission in January 1983 subject to certain observations. The clearance of the project from environmental angle and under the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 is under examination.

Drinking water shortage in Gujarat cities

412. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute drinking water shortage in Rajkot, Ahmedabad, part of Baroda and other urban areas of Gujarat state;

(b) whether any request for Central Government's assistance has been received from State Government of Gujarat, if so, what are the details thereof and what is the response of Central Government in this regard; and

(c) whether his Ministry have received any scheme for providing immediate solution of drinking water problem of these areas; if so, what is the reaction of Govt. thereto?